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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Fan et al.

Examiner: Cory C. Bell

Serial No: 10/723,229

Group Art Unit: 2164

Filed: November 26, 2003

Docket: YOR9-2003-0429US1
(8728-651)

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INDEXING WEIGHTED
SEQUENCES IN LARGE DATABASES

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated May 02, 2006, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I (claims 1-12 and 15) with traverse.

As set forth in MPEP § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though the application contains claims to independent and distinct inventions.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA, 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Dated: May 19, 2006

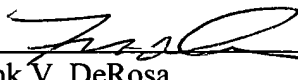

Frank V. DeRosa

While the inventions of Groups I and II may be distinct for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that simultaneous examination of Groups I and II will not present a serious burden. It does not appear that searching in the related subclasses 2 and 3 of the common class 707 would be a serious burden, especially given the small amount of claims in Group II 3 and the related subject matter of the claims. Indeed, although the inventions of Groups I and II may be distinct, they are related to the extent that possible patent references related to the claimed inventions would undoubtedly be commonly included in the both the above subclasses 2 and 3.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that there would be no serious burden on Examiner to simultaneously examine claims of Groups I and II. Under such circumstances, it is respectfully requested that Examiner maintain all claims in the same application.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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